

Application No.: 10/077406

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ABSTRACT

This invention relates to compositions and methods comprising "lymphotoxin- β receptor blocking agents", which block lymphotoxin- β receptor signalling. Lymphotoxin- β receptor blocking agents are useful for treating lymphocyte-mediated immunological diseases, and more particularly, for inhibiting Th1 cell-mediated immune responses. This invention relates to soluble forms of the lymphotoxin- β receptor extracellular domain that act as lymphotoxin- β receptor blocking agents. This invention also relates to the use of antibodies directed against either the lymphotoxin- β receptor or its ligand, surface lymphotoxin, that act as lymphotoxin- β receptor blocking agents. A novel screening method for selecting soluble receptors, antibodies and other agents that block LT- β receptor signalling is provided.

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